

- 1: Hocart, Arthur Maurice. Lau Islands, Fiji. Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Bulletin 62. Honolulu: 1929.

Pp. 240, 3 maps, 4 plates, glossary bibliography.

Yale: S11.0182.62

[Hocart spent four years in the Fiji Islands as the headmaster of a native school in Lakemba, the chief island of the Lau group. This book is a synthesis of native accounts regarding customs and tradition as well as a record of the author's own observations. As a result, there are a number of obscure passages and a seeming need for further systematization of the materials presented. On the whole, the description of the native material culture such as food, clothing, shelter, agriculture, fishing and boat building is adequate. There are also data related to the kinship system, political organization, social structure, games and ceremonies, life cycle, medical care, witchcraft, religious beliefs, and legends. Information on the adjacent Moala, Totoya, and Matuku Islands has been marked for the OQ9 Viti-i-Loma file. --Analyst]

Field date: ca. 1920
Analyst: Robert Lee

Evaluation: Educator-5
Processed in 1959

- 2: Thompson, Laura. Southern Lau, Fiji: an Ethnography. Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Bulletin 162. Honolulu: 1940.

Pp. iv, 228; 5 end plates; 21 text figures; 2 maps; 2 tables.

Yale: S11 0182 162

[This source by the outstanding authority on the ethnography of Southern Lau, places emphasis upon information dealing with social structure, and to a lesser extent, religion. Portions of the work deal with the life cycle, games, housing and other aspects of material culture, geography, and archaeology. A section of the work by a field assistant, Bernhard Tueting, records the subsistence pattern of the group. --Analyst]

Field date: 1933-1934
Analyst: James R. Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5
Processed in 1959

- 3: Thompson, Laura. *Fijian Frontier*. Studies of the Pacific, No. 4. San Francisco: American Council, Institute of Pacific Relations, 1940.

Pp. xxvi, 153; 7 plates; 2 maps

Yale: Nkd99 F4 940t

[This study complements the author's ethnography of Southern Lau (2: Thompson, this file) in that it gives the modern setting of the group and describes the effects of missionary activities, British administration, and other acculturative influences. It is a popular account compared to her previous work, and includes suggestions for bettering the condition of the people. The aim of the study is to analyze the changes taking place in native life on Kambara, to try to understand the new culture which is emerging, and to apply this understanding to the practical problems of colonial administration. --Analyst]

Field date: 1933-1934

Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist - 5

Processed in 1959

- 4: Thompson, Laura. The Culture History of the Lau Islands, Fiji. American Anthropologist, Vol. 40, pp. 181-197. Menasha: American Anthropological Association, 1938.

HRAF copy

[Laura Thompson here gathers the written, traditional, and archaeological evidence bearing on the history of the Lau Islanders to present an historical reconstruction of the group. The data are classified into five periods: (1) the early period; (2) the period of cultural adaptation following the arrival of immigrants from the west (about ten generations ago); (3) the Tongan period (reaching its height in the middle of the nineteenth century); (4) the European period (beginning about 1835); (5) the period of readjustment. --Analyst]

Field date: 1933-1934
Analyst: James R. Leary

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist-5
Processed in 1959

- 5: Thompson, Laura. The Relations of Men, Animals, and Plants in an Island Community (Fiji). American Anthropologist, N.S., Vol. 51, pp. 253-267. Menasha: American Anthropological Association, 1949.

HRAF copy

[This source is an attempt to demonstrate the ecological relationships between man and nature in Southern Lau. Included in the discussion are materials on the physical nature of the islands and their suitability for agriculture, the systems of production and distribution of the natives, diet and nutrition, and some of the effects of British rule on the native ecological balance. --Analyst]

Field date: 1933-1934

Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1959

- 6: Thompson, Laura. The Problem of "Totemism" in Southern Lau: A Reply to A. Capell and R.H. Lester. Oceania, Vol. 17, pp. 211-224. Sydney: Australian National Research Council, 1946-1947.

Yale: Nk10 Oc2 17

[This source is a reply by the author to a criticism by Capell and Lester on the accuracy of her findings as published in 2: Thompson, this file, especially as they related to totemism and social groupings. Thompson re-examines her data and theirs, and comes to the conclusion that Capell and Lester tried to force the Lau social groupings into preconceived concepts, while she described the functioning groups, thus explaining the difference in findings. As regards totemism, she believes the data to be in her monograph, although not usually described under that name, since she held to a very strict definition of totemism. Although Thompson, Capell and Lester followed radically different methods in reconstructing Southern Lau cultural history, they came to much the same conclusions. --Analyst]

Field date: 1933-1934

Analyst: Timothy J. O'Leary

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5

Processed in 1959

- 7: Thompson, Laura. Adzes from the Lau Islands, Fiji. The Journal of the Polynesian Society, Vol. 47, pp. 97-108. Wellington: 1937.

Yale: Nk10 p76e v. 46-47

[In the 18th and 19th centuries, the islands of Southern Lau were the center of the canoe industry for all of Fiji, and Tonga as well. This work, combined with other highly-developed wood-working activities, necessitated the development of a number of cutting implements, made of both stone and shell. In this article, a number of these implements are described and pictured, and the techniques of their manufacture are discussed in detail. --Analyst]

Field date: 1933-1934

Analyst: James R. Leary

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist-5
Processed in 1959

- 8: Thompson, Laura. The Pottery of the Lau Islands, Fiji. The Journal of the Polynesian Society, Vol. 47, pp. 109-113. Wellington: 1937.

Yale: Nk10 P76e v. 46-47

[In this brief article, Laura Thompson discusses the now extinct pottery industry of the Lau Islands. The pottery was made on only a few of the islands, but was traded to the others. Included is a plate showing sherds and one complete pot recovered by archaeological investigation. --Analyst]

Field date: 1933-1934
Analyst: James R. Leary

Evaluation: Social Anthropologist-5
Processed in 1959

- 9: Bryan, Edwin H., Jr. Preliminary Report on the Lau Group, Fiji. Unpublished manuscript on file in the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum Library [1924].

Pp. ii, 111 (typed), 50 photographs, 30 maps.

Bishop Museum: DU.600.B91.

/The author collected the material presented in this source as a member of the Whitney South Sea Bird Expedition, July to October, 1924. Most of the source deals with the location, topography, geology, flora and fauna of each of the forty islands of the Lau group. A topographical sketch map, corrected in the field, is furnished of each island. Information on the inhabitants is incidental but includes: the 1921 census of the population, names and location of settlements, cultivation and other occupations and location of archaeological sites. --Analyst.]

Field date: 1924

Analyst: Joan Steffens

Evaluation: Natural Scientist - 5

Processed in 1963

- 10: St. Johnston, T.R. The Lau Islands (Fiji) And Their Fairy Tales and Folk-lore. London: The Times Book Co. Ltd, 1918.

Pp. 145; 4 photographs; 1 map.

Yale: Nki31 F4 918s.

/This source presents an assorted number of myths and legends of the Lau Islanders. They were collected and recorded by the author in the course of his ten year tenure as a District Commissioner of the area. In the introductory chapter, Mr. St. Johnston speculates on the origin of the natives, their early migrations and seeks to assess their racial and cultural identity. A lengthy section is devoted to an eye-witness description of a traditional ceremony performed for visiting dignitaries. The last section of the book is taken up with an old chief's narration of the traditional history of one of the Lau islands, namely Lakeba. /

Field date: no date
Analyst: A. Vinogradov

Evaluation: Government Official-5
Processed in 1965